

Amendments to the Specification:

Please insert on the line before the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 4 with the following heading:

--FIELD OF THE INVENTION--

Please insert on the line before the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 10 with the following heading:

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--

Please insert on the line before the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 15 with the following heading:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- ~~It is an object of the~~ The present invention ~~to disclose~~s an apparatus of the aforementioned type which permits the centered stack alignment in an inexpensive, reproducible and reliable manner, said alignment preferably occurring in transverse, as well as in longitudinal, direction even when sheets are to be duplex-printed.--

Please insert on the line before the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 5 with the following heading:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--

Please insert on the line before the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 16 with the following heading:

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a part of an apparatus for the alignment of a stack of sheets, as disclosed by the present invention.

Please replace the paragraphs beginning on page 7, line 3 with the following rewritten paragraphs:

-- ~~The present invention relates to an~~ An apparatus for the alignment of a stack of sheets ~~comprising including~~ at least one pair of trimming elements which can be adjusted at distances relative to each other in a ~~preferably~~ substantially continuous manner in order to accommodate and align the stack between said trimming elements.

~~An object of the present invention is to disclose an apparatus which permits the centered stack alignment in an inexpensive, reproducible and reliable manner, preferably occurring in transverse, as well as in longitudinal, direction, even when sheets are expected to be duplex printed.~~

~~In accordance with the present invention, the~~ The trimming elements are coupled to allow their counter-directional movement with respect to each other, ~~in~~ in such that an automatic stop means preventing an enlargement of the distance between the trimming elements ~~is provided, and in that this stop means~~ can be deactivated if required.--